

Remarks

The Office Action dated September 2, 2005, has been carefully considered.

Claims 1-7, 11, 12, 14-19, 21-27 and 30 are currently amended.

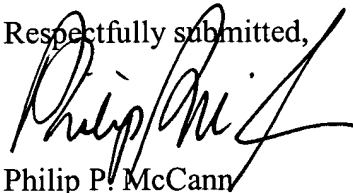
The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 20-21, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pesce, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,844,430). The Office Action also rejects claims 2-6, 8, 11, 13-19, 22-27, and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pesce.

Pesce is directed towards articles including cationic polysaccharides and pH buffering means on top of the cationic polysaccharides that enhance the malodor control properties of such cationic polysaccharides, wherein the cationic polysaccharides are chitosans. Pesce further discloses that the articles may include anionic gelling materials that are predominantly negatively charged.

The present application, on the other hand, discloses and claims a superabsorbent polymer and process for making the same comprising a polymeric resin and a aminopolysaccharide polymer, wherein the aminopolysaccharide polymer may be a chitosan. There is no teaching or suggestion in Pesce to provide such a superabsorbent polymer. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1-31 are patentable over Pesce.

In light of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants submit that Claims 1-31 of the application are in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request such action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Philip P. McCann
Registration No. 30,919

SMITH MOORE LLP
P.O. Box 21927
Greensboro, NC 27420
(336) 378-5302

Date: December 2, 2005

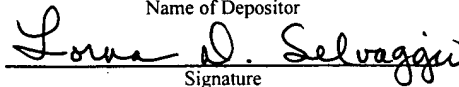
File No.: 5003073.033US1

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL, IN AN
ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA,
VA 22313-1450, ON December 2, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Lorna D. Selvaggio

Name of Depositor



Signature

December 2, 2005

Date of Signature